

Quotes Worth Considering:

“It is possible to be so active in the service of Christ as to forget to love Him.”

- *P.T. Forsyth*

Church: Why Bother?

An excerpt from author Philip Yancey

“In the record of Jesus’ ministry on earth, I see only one time when he approached a state resembling anything like ‘burnout’. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus fell prostrate on the ground and prayed. Sweat fell from him like drops of blood. His prayers took on an uncharacteristic tone of pleading. He ‘offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death,’ Hebrews (5-7) says, but of course Jesus knew he would not be saved from death. As that awareness grew inside him, Jesus felt distress. He had no community to support him—they had all fallen asleep. ‘Could you ... not keep watch for one hour?’ he chided. (Matthew 26:40)

And yet a dramatic change takes place between that scene in the Garden and all that follows. The Gospel accounts of Gethsemane show a person in distress and anguish. After Gethsemane they show a person who, more than Pilot, more than Herod, acts in utter control. Read the accounts of the trials. Jesus is no victim; he is serene, the master of his destiny.

What happened in the garden to make the difference? We have few details about the content of Jesus’ prayers, for the potential witnesses were sound asleep. He may have reviewed his entire ministry on earth. The weight of all that went undone may have borne down on him; his disciples were unstable and irresponsible, the movement was at risk, the world was still home to evil and much suffering. Jesus himself seemed at the very edge of human endurance. He no more relished the idea of pain and death than you or I do.

Somehow, though, in Gethsemane Jesus worked through that crisis by transferring the burden to the Father. It was God’s will he had come to do, after all, and his prayer resolved into the words, ‘Yet not as I will, but as you will.’ Not many hours later he could cry out in profound truth, ‘It is finished’. (John 19:30)

I pray for that sense of detachment, of trust. I pray that I could see my work, my life, as an offering to God each day. I have learned that God is a God of mercy, of compassion, of grace—a trustworthy boss, to be sure. God and God alone is qualified to help me negotiate the slippery path between love for others and love for myself—a path bordered by hypersensitivity and callus.”

This is a short book and is Philip’s account of his pilgrimage from growing up in a church to deciding the church was not what it was supposed to be and leaving, back to being a part of a church and the understanding he came to in the process. A good read. . .some things to consider. . .for those who aren’t involved in a church family and for those who are. (There is a copy in the church library. (If it isn’t checked out!)

Thoughts On Prayer

Intercessory prayer – praying always Intercession requires perseverance not to quit.

“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found no one.”

- **Ezekiel 22:30**

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying ‘there was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while, but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”

“Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?” I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” - **Luke 18:1-8**

“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” - **Luke 21:36**

“Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” - **Ephesians 8:18**

“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.” - **Colossians 1:3-14**

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might.

- **Colossians 1:9-14**

“Pray without ceasing.” - **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.”

- **2 Thessalonians 1:11**

What is prayer? Prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other -- God and man. Prayer is more than words; it is an attitude and an expression of the heart toward God. Prayer is hard work. Prayer is holy work. God has a more difficult time finding people to pray than He does any other assignment.

Prayer is a privilege, one of the greatest privileges God has given us. Prayer, though unseen, allows us to participate in the work of God throughout this world.

“Where there is no prayer, there is no power.” - *Author Unknown*

Statistics of when and how much people pray?

- An average Christian prays 3-7 minutes a day (including meal time prayers)
- 52% of people who pray do so several times a day.
- 37 % of people say they pray once a day.
- 21% have extended prayer time with other family members (26% among Protestants and 13% among Catholics)
- 33% of adults regularly participate in a prayer group or other meeting that has a focus on prayer
- Average Protestant minister prays for 39 minutes a day; 21% typically spend 16 minutes or less per day.

OTHER STATS . . .

“Christians spend seven times as much time on entertainment as they do on spiritual activities.” George Barna

- Not as many people pray as we think they do
- Not as many people pray as say they do
- Those who don't have a dedicated daily prayer time, but say they pray all day, really don't.
- 4% of those professing to be Christians have read their Bible all the way through at least once
- 36% of adults read the Bible during a typical week.

“Obituary”

“Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Ave. Born many years ago in the midst of a great revival, she was one of the most influential members of the church family.

For the past several years, Mrs. Prayer Meeting has been failing in health. At the last, she was but a shadow of her former self. Her last whispered words were inquiries concerning the absence of her loved ones, now busy in the markets of trade and places of worldly amusements.

Experts, including Dr Works, Dr Reform, and Dr Joiner, all disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness. They had administered large doses of organizations and socials, but to no avail. A postmortem autopsy showed that a deficiency of spiritual food coupled with a lack of faith and general support, were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights!”

Children / Parents

We can learn so much from children if we will just listen with our hearts and be attentive to what they are telling us. I find the poetry of Mattie J.T. Stepanek has great wisdom...beyond his years. He has several books published and the following are from some of them. In case you aren't familiar with him, he started writing poetry and short stories at the age of three. Some of his poetry explores the uncensored reality of living with a rare form of muscular dystrophy and with the grief associated with the loss of his three siblings to the same life threatening condition. But most proclaim the innocent hope, profound wisdom and delightful humor of childhood.

So from time to time I will be putting some of his work in our pages for us to ponder and learn from!!

These are his words about himself, from his book Heartsongs when he was 11 years old.

“About the Author”

I am Mattie J.T. Stepanek.
My body has light skin,
Red blood, blue eyes, and blond hair.
Since I have mitochondrial myopathy,
I even have a trach, a ventilator and oxygen.
Very poetic, I am, and very smart, too.
I am always brainstorming ideas and stories.
I am a survivor, but some day, I will see
My two brothers and one sister in Heaven.

When I grow up, I plan to become
A daddy, a writer, a public speaker
And most of all, a peacemaker.
Whoever I am, and whatever happens
I will always love my body and mind,
Even if it has different abilities
Than other peoples' bodies and minds.
I will always be happy, because
I will always be me.

“The Daily Gift”

You know what?
Tomorrow is a new day
And today is a new day.
Actually,
Every day is a new day.
Thank You, God
For all of these
Special and new days.

“The Importance of Windows”

Windows are very good things to have.
They let you look out,
And see all the different things.
And they let you look in,
To see all the other different things.

And do you know what is the most
Special window of all?
The window in your heart,
That’s between the Heaven-in-the earth,
And the Heaven-in-the-sky.

Health

*POT AND PSYCOTIC DISORDERS.....*Many states are legalizing marijuana for medical use. The problem with this action is that very little serious study has been done on many of the effects of marijuana. Researchers at the University of New South Wales report that pot advances psychotic disorders significantly, advancing the risk and speeding up the onset of the disease. Source Time..via Does God Exist..2011

STEM CELLS...

October, 2011 issue of American Family Assn.’s Journal has an excellent article on stem cells, by Teddy James. There are several sites given for anyone who wishes to check it out:

www.stemcellresearchfacts.org

Contains videos of patients who have been treated with adult stem cells and speaks to the advantages of adult stem cells over embryonic. Also has background info about stem cell research

www.frcblog.com/author/David-Prentice

Dr Prentice closely follows the stem cell news. He has a very down to earth method of discussing complex issues so that nay lay person can understand what is going on.

www.stemcellresearch.org

Has current news focusing on stem cell research. It also has a scoreboard showing treatments of adult vs. embryonic stem cells. The score at the time of publication is 73 for adult stem cell, 0 for embryonic.

www.cmda.org

The Christian Medical and Dental Assn. Covers all issues of life. Much information can be found from beginning of life to end of life. Everything is examined from the Christian worldview. They seek to practice medicine and advance biblical principles of healthcare within the church and the culture.

Matthew Uram's face, neck, should and right arm were covered in second degree burns. At an Independence Day celebration a number of years ago, the Pennsylvania police officer was standing next to a bonfire when someone threw a cup of gasoline on it, not realizing how close Uram was to the blaze.

Four days after the incident, burn specialists declared Uram healed. According to his story, which was highlighted by National Geographic in 2008, his miracle cure came in the form of a gun that looked like it came from Star Wars.

Uram's treatment was an experimental "skin gun" that takes a burn victim's stem cells, mixes them with a chemical liquid and shoots the concoction directly onto the burn. The total time from skin cell biopsy to application is around 90 minutes. What would have left much scarring and taken weeks to heal by traditional treatment took four days with no noticeable difference between his old skin and new.

For years, scientists have heralded the potential of stem cell research. They have promised cures for cancer, Parkinson's, heart disease, diabetes and other ailments. However, the potential has been marred by ever present controversy. To understand the issue and the controversy surrounding it, the AFA Journal consulted with Dr David Prentice.

Dr. Prentice serves as senior fellow for life sciences with the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. He has done laboratory research for 20 years at Indiana State University of Medicine where he taught as an adjunct professor of medical and electrical genetics.

The article is an interview with Dr Prentice about stem cells and the research done and the results.

Since this is a controversial issue in our nation today, I found this article to be very informative. If you cannot find a copy of the Oct. AFA Journal see Lila.

Leftovers

Some ideas for using leftovers. Some you may already be using, others maybe not.

- Roast....slice leftover roast into strips and sauté with onions and green peppers. Serve in tortillas with shredded cheese.
- Potatoes....Add 1 egg to 1 cup mashed potatoes, shape into patties. Fry in butter or margarine until brown on both sides.
- Steak....slice a generous amount of onions. Sautee' in butter or margarine. Add leftover steak to skillet and cover with the sautéed onions. Cover and cook over low heat until the meat is heated through.
- Potatoes ... For like new leftover mashed potatoes, heat in upper part of double boiler. Add a little more milk and cover while heating, re-fluff by stirring when heated through.
- Cake.....combine broken chocolate or angel food cake (or both), whipped cream, chopped nut meats, miniature marshmallows and chopped candied fruits. (judge amount of rest of ingredients based on amount of cake you are using) Scoop into sherbet glasses and chill for at least 3 hours.
- Squash....add some brown sugar or maple syrup to leftover mashed squash. Mix. Shape into patties. Fry in melted butter until heated through and lightly browned.
- Asparagus stretcher.... To make a few stalks of leftover asparagus go further, cut them up and heat in a medium white sauce.
- Wieners.....Cut leftover wieners (or ring bologna) into bite size pieces. Sautee' in butter or margarine with some onion. Add two scrambled eggs for each wiener used. Salt and pepper to taste.
- Mushroom roast beef....if roast beef was originally cooked in a mushroom and onion mix, just add 1 can of mushroom soup to leftover meat stock and cut up leftover meat into small pieces. Serve over cooked noodles for a delicious and different meal. (This would be good over bread also, like an open faced sandwich.)
- Tart shells.....cut out rounds of leftover pie dough. Turn a muffin pan upside down. Press dough rounds onto bottoms of muffin cups. Bake at 450° for 7-8 minutes or until lightly brown. Invert pan onto a wire rack. Use tart shells for Pudding and other desserts or fill with creamed sauces.
- Sausage... Add leftover sausages, thinly sliced to your pancake batter to make a new breakfast treat (and stretch a small amount of sausage so there's enough for everyone.)
- Pie crust ... cut away scraps of leftover pie dough. Reroll and cut into desired shape. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Bake at 475° for 8 to 10 min.. Serve warm.
- Potato balls....Form balls of leftover mashed potatoes around cubes of cheese. Roll in Parmesan cheese or crumbs and broil until golden brown.
- Quick Breakfast....Put leftover pancakes or waffles between small pieces of aluminum foil and freeze. Then on busy mornings, heat in your toaster oven or microwave.
- bacon....Leftover bacon from breakfast makes an excellent garnish for your dinner salad. Crumble the bacon and set aside in a small dish at room temperature(do not refrigerate)

- Bread....remove crusts from day old bread. Cut bread in 1 in x 2 in rectangles. Brush melted butter on all sides. Roll in a mixture of sugar and cinnamon. Place under broiler and broil on both sides until brown. Serve hot with jelly, jam or marmalade.

- Beef....Simply adding leftover beef to your own combination of vegetables will yield a flavorful chop suey taste.

- Broccoli....give new appeal to leftover cooked broccoli. Place it in an ovenproof dish. Cover with white sauce or a can of cream of mushroom soup. Sprinkle crushed saltines and Parmesan cheese on top. Bake at 350° for 20 to 25 minutes.

- Sauerkrautto stretch leftover sauerkraut and any kind of meat, saute' onions in bacon drippings. Add drained sauerkraut. Stir in leftover meat and heat through. Add cooked noodles or kidney beans to make a delicious one dish meal.

Quick Dill Pickles (Martha Stewart Magazine)

4 to 6 Kirby cucumbers
1 small bunch fresh dill, cleaned
12 whole black peppercorns
1 cup white wine vinegar

1 teaspoon salt
¼ cup sugar
1 clove garlic, thinly sliced

Cut the cucumbers into 1 inch square chunks, and place in a heat proof bowl with 12 to 15 sprigs of dill. Set aside.

Place the peppercorns, vinegar, salt and sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook until the salt and sugar dissolve, 1 – 2 minutes. Add the garlic, and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and pour ho mixture over reserved cucumbers. Let stand 30 –40 minutes and serve.

Serves 4

These pickles can keep, refrigerated in an airtight container, three to five days. If Kirby cucumbers are unavailable, English or other long seedless cucumbers may be substituted.

Vinegar

20 unusual, thrifty and eco-friendly uses for vinegar that you may or may not have thought of.

1. **Condition hair**.....Silky, shiny, buildup free hair using a single cheap, natural product? It may sound odd, but using apple cider vinegar as a rinse after shampooing really does work like a dream. It removes residue from the hair shaft and closes the cuticles. Just add half a tablespoon of vinegar to a cup of water, plus a few drops of essential oil if you like. Pour it on in the shower and then rinse it out. Sure, your hair will smell like salad dressing for while but once it's dry the smell dissipates.

2. **Kill weeds**.....A few rogue weeds can wreak havoc in an otherwise flawless lawn, vegetable garden, or flowerbed and are especially annoying when popping up in the cracks of a sidewalk or driveway. Forget pricey weed killers full of toxic ingredients – household vinegar really does kill unwanted plants; stronger vinegar made for horticultural use, which is 25% acetic acid, works even better.

3. **Remove underarm stains**.....Unsightly sweat stains can really ruin an otherwise beautiful blouse. Ironically, if you use aluminum based antiperspirants, they are even more likely to appear, thanks to a reaction between aluminum compounds in these products and salts in your sweat. Spray full strength white vinegar on the stain before washing, and it will disappear.

4. **Soften fabrics**....Add ½ cup of white vinegar to the wash cycle and not only will it prevent lint from clinging to your clothes and keep colors bright, it will also remove soap scum from both the clothes you are washing and the washing machine itself. Vinegar is also recommended in place of dryer sheets – simply add ¾ cup to your washer during the final rinse cycle.

5. **Remedy sore throats**.....Many people recommend sipping or gargling with a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar in a cup of warm water to soothe a sore throat. Add a few tablespoons of honey (also a seriously versatile product.) To this mixture in order to make it even more effective and far more palatable.

6. **Deter ants**.....got trails of tiny ants weaving their way around your home? These annoying insects aren't big fans of vinegar, so spraying a 50/50 mixture of white vinegar and water anywhere you have seen them can help encourage them to move out. The vinegar also erases the scent trails that they use to indicate sources of food to their brethren.

7. ***Soak sore muscles***....Apple cider vinegar helps draw out lactic acid, which accumulates to muscles after exercise, causing that sore feeling. Mix a few tablespoons of vinegar into a cup of water, dip cloth in the mixture and apply it to sore areas for 20 minutes.

8. ***Freshen air***....Whether it's smoke, mildew, pet odor, or lingering whiffs of burnt casserole, bad smells can make a home less than welcoming. Store bought air fresheners just cover up the smell with strong clearly artificial scents, creating disturbing hybrid smells that only serve to worsen the situation. Acetic acid in vinegar absorbs odors, so spritzing it around the room will neutralize the smells. You can also use it to wipe down surfaces in the room that need freshening.

9. ***Remove stickers***....If you're just getting around to removing that decal from your bumper or trying to peel a price tag off a new purchase, you 'll never guess what magic ingredient is about to make your life a lot easier. Warm a little bit of white vinegar on the stovetop or in the microwave and then dip a rag into it. Hold the rag over the sticker until it's thoroughly saturated and it will peel right off without leaving sticky residue behind. This trick also loosens wallpaper adhesive.

10. ***Cure hiccups***....most doctors claim that hiccup cures don't actually work, but tell that to the thousands of people who swear by vinegar as a way to ease these involuntary spasms. It's not clear how a shot of vinegar would actually help -- other than to distract you with its acidic flavor -- but next time you've got a bout of the hiccups, give it a try.

11. ***Clean crust paintbrushes***....So you forgot to clean your paintbrushes last time you used them, and now they're so stiff and crusty, it seems that you'll have to throw them away. Not so fast! Fill a saucepan with undiluted white vinegar and bring it to a boil over medium heat. Dip the paintbrushes into the boiling vinegar, one at a time, dragging the bristles along the bottom of the pan. Continue this process until the paint is dissolved.

12. ***Eliminate stale odors***....You know how lunchboxes and other food containers can take on a funny smell after a while? Vinegar can take care of that too. Either wipe down the surface well with white vinegar or, in severe case, leave a cloth soaked in vinegar in the contain for a few hours to absorb the odors.

13. ***Remove mineral deposits***....Calcium and lime deposits from hard water don't just stain coffeemakers and bath tubs, they can actually clog showerheads and reduce dishwasher function. Run a mixture of half water, half white vinegar through your coffee machine to remove them. Use straight vinegar as a rinsing agent in your dishwasher to prevent buildup and wrap a vinegar soaked cloth around stained faucets until the deposits can be easily scrubbed away. To clean a clogged shower head, remove it from the pipe and place it in a

saucepan full of white vinegar. Simmer for just a few minutes, being careful not to allow it to boil and then wash off the stains.

14. *Dissolve rust...*...the acetic acid in vinegar reacts with iron oxide to remove rust from small metal items like hinges, nuts and bolts. Simmer then in a sauce pan full of vinegar, then rinse well with water to prevent the vinegar from further affecting the metal.

15. *Neutralize spice in foods...*You've got a dinner disaster on your hands; one too many shakes of cayenne powder has turned your award winning chili into an inedible five alarm blaze and your guests are waiting at the table. Vinegar to the rescue! Add white or apple cider vinegar to your food, one teaspoon at a time to neutralize the spice.

16. *Prolong the life of cut flowers...*...Bouquets of cut flowers brighten a room all too firefly, often wilting after just a few days. Squeeze a little extra enjoyment out of your arrangements by adding two tablespoons of white vinegar per quart of water in the vase, which will keep them perky just a little bit longer.

17. *Clean glass, plastic, chrome, and floors...*...a half and half solution of water and white vinegar will cut the grime on the shelves and walls of the refrigerator and eliminate spoiled food smells too. Full strength vinegar will remove tough smudges on glass and make porcelain sinks shine. Make it into a paste with a little baking soda to scrub chrome, or mix 1/3 white vinegar with 1/3 rubbing alcohol, 1/3 water and 3 drops of dishwashing liquid for an economical floor cleaner. Just be sure not to get vinegar on marble, granite, or slate surfaces.

18. *Treat fungal infections...*Fungal infections like athlete's foot, toe nail fungus, and dandruff are definitely no fun. White vinegar and apple cider vinegar can both be applied topically to affected areas of the body to kill fungus. For foot related ailments, soak in a solution of one part vinegar to five parts water for about 30 minutes a day.

19. *Tenderize and kill bacteria in meat...*...Marinate meat overnight in apple cider vinegar, and it will be delectably tender. This can reportedly also kill the bacteria that causes food borne illnesses, including ecoli.

20. *Open drains and freshen garbage disposals...*Clear a clogged drain without the nasty, headache inducing chemicals. Dump about ¾ cup of baking soda down the drain and chase it with ½ cup white vinegar, then plug the drain. Leave it for about 30 minutes before rinsing with a kettle full of boiling water. You can use the same trick to clean and deodorize garbage disposals, or freeze vinegar in an ice cube tray and grind them up in the disposal to clean and sharpen the blades at the same time.

Garden / Plants

Since we have had a killing frost and the gardening will take a break for the winter mostly...perhaps you will want to think about some indoor gardening!! Here is an idea for planting something inside for later use.

Grapefruit seedlings . . .

Fill pot with good soil which has drainage. Take seeds out of grape fruit and plant generously in the soil. Set pot in a warm place and water frequently. When seed sprout and grow about 2 inches, use little pots ready to plant in and transplant each plant into little pot. Little pots can be bought in any variety store. When plants are several inches high, they are ready for gifts (or for sale??) Their bright glossy leaves make them very attractive.(and they should sell readily, if that is what you wish to do)

They make lovely table decorations and houseplants to set on window sills.

You can try this with other types of seeds from fruits. If you aren't successful the first time, try again. Usually you can get at least part of the seeds to sprout.

Or you might take a carrot that still has the green top (leaves) on it, cut the top off leaving about 3/4 to 1 inch carrot still attached. Place in water until it roots and transplant into a pot filled with soil. The same can be done with other root vegetables, if you can find them with the tops still attached!!

Or grow a sweet potato vine, or an avocado from an avocado seed.

If you do not wish to grow these type of plants and already have house plants, most of them are very easily propagated. African violets for instance will grow from a leaf. Just put it in potting soil and water , keep in diffused light , it will eventually root and start growing. I have done this also with the "Christmas or Thanksgiving cactus.

There are others that will grow from a cutting. Cut off a branch and place in water for a while until it roots and transplant to soil. Creeping Charlie, Begonias, arrowhead plant, any of the philadendrons or pothos, pepperomia and many others. I have rooted most of the various houseplants I have had over the years. And then those like the airplane plant that put out 'babies"...you will soon have bunches of baby plants around the house!!

If you aren't sure if it will work...try it and see. You may be surprised.

All of these make very attractive houseplants and cost you basically nothing. Also make nice gifts, if you give plants as gifts. I usually give mine away but have to mention that I have the names of several ladies who have been here and seen my plants and have left their numbers to be called when I have any for sale or give away!! (I have on occasion put

some on a yard sale and they are usually about the first things to go, and the demand usually is way more than what I have for sale.)

Of course this is for plant lovers (like me) but it really is an easy way to get lots of plants for yourself and others...and have fun watching them grow. Lila

A Bit Of Trivia

Q. Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A. When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Q. Why do ships and aircraft use "mayday" as their call for help!

A. This comes from the French word *m'aldez*, meaning "help me" and is pronounced, approximately, "mayday."

Q. Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

A. In France, where tennis became popular, round zero on the scoreboard look like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'egg'. When tennis was introduced in the US, Americans (mis)pronounced it 'love'.

Q. Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

A. In the middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Q. Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called 'passing the buck'?

A. In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

Q. Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

A. It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Q. Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

A. Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the center of attention.

Q. Why is someone who is feeling great ‘on cloud nine’?

A. Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud if someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above the worldly cares.

Q. Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs?

A. When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scots game ‘golf’. So he had the first course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired Cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced ‘ca-day’ and the Scots changed it into ‘caddie’.

Q. Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs?

A. Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called ‘pygg’. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as ‘pygg banks.’ When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

Q. Did you ever wonder why dimes, quarters and half dollars have notches (milling), while pennies and nickels do not?

A. The US Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, Quarters and half dollars are notched because they used to contain silver. Pennies and nickels aren't notched because the metals they contain are not valuable enough to shave.

SING PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING TO THE LORD

"Now Thank We All Our God"

(1636 from Then Sings My Soul, by Robert Morgan)

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
(I Thessalonians 5:18)

An old English preacher once said, "A grateful mind is a great mind," and the Bible agrees. There are 138 passages of Scripture on the subject of thanksgiving, and some of them are powerfully worded. Colossians 3:17 says "and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." I Thessalonians 5:18 adds, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God, Among the small, rich handful we do have is "Now Thank We All Our God." The German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the "Doxology," yet it's loved on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world.

It was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training, began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years' War was raging through Germany.

Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying and burying the dead. One after another, the pastors themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy, and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities and the period of suffering ended.

Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world ever since.

Now Thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices.
Who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices.

Who from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,

and keep us in His grace
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given.
The Son and Him who reigns
with them in highest heaven.

The one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore
for this was, is now and shall be evermore.

Words by Martin Rinkart

Music by Johann Crüger

Answers To The Trivia Quiz In September Pages

1. To measure altitude
2. Socrates
3. Warp threads extend lengthwise in the loom and are crossed by the woof.
4. Euell Gibbons
5. Bakers struck in New York City in 1741, protesting regulation of the price of bread.
6. Arkansas
7. Regret in 1915